DOINGS OF THE VAN LOONS

Father will have to think up something better than that

SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I.—Georgy Wagstaff, daughter of Sir George, of the British admiralty, hints at a liaison between her governess, Ethel Willoughby, and Henry Streetman. Ethel denies it.

CHAPTER II.—Henry Streetman calls on Ethel and while waiting for her talks to Brewster, Sir George's butler, who is a German spy, about his failure to get at admiralty papers in Sir George's possession. He phones to German secret service headquarters.

CHAPTER III—When Ethel appears he tries to force her to get from Sir George knowledge of the sailing orders of the British fleet. Though she believes him a French instead of a German spy, she refuses until he threatens her. She begs him to announce their secret marriage, as Georky is suspicious, but he puts her off.

CHAPTER IV.—At tea Georgy and her lover, Guy Falconer, tease Sir George, and Streetman makes an awkward attempt to talk politics.

CHAPTER V.—Charlie Brown, newspaper man of New York, entertains the tea party with his views on the threatened war in Europe.

CHAPTER VI—Guy Falconer declares that if war comes he will go to Cuba. His mother and Sir George reprove him. Charlie says Guy is spoofing.

CHAPTER VII—Capt. Larry Raymond of the Irish Guards, calls on Ethel. The two had been undeclared lovers and now he asks her to marry him. She still loves him, but tells him she is married.

CHAPTER VIII—Ethel finds that Larry knows Streetman as a German spy, and that Streetman had a wife in Berlin when he married her. The others come in and to them comes Sir George with the news that Germany has declared war on Russia.

CHAPTER IX—Guy wants to go at once with Larry to enlist. After the others go Ethel wins Larry's consent to have her assist him in the secret service work he is doing for England.

CHAPTER X.—Streetman again calls on Ethel. She gets from him an admission that he is a German spy, gives him false information about the British fleet and wins his consent to her co-operation with him in his work. She tells Larry to this and arrees to meet him in Brussels.

CHAPTER XI—In the Lion d' Or inn at Courvoisier, Belgium, Larry and a French spy arrange for a secret telephone in the inn to forward information about the German advance. Christophe, the landlord, tells his daughter Jeanne that there will be no German invasion of Belgium.

CHAPTER XII—Charlie Brown, hunting for a war, arrives at the Lion d' Or and meets Ethel there.

CHAPTER XIII—Ethel is told she is to operate the secret phone. A mob of refugees flee past the inn before the oncoming German host. The German advance guard arrives.

CHAPTER XIV—Major von Brenig takes possession of Christophe's son and other property. Ethel, questioned, shows German secret service credentials.

CHAPTER XV—Charlie Brown is about to be shot as an English spy when the major, a Columbia graduate, saves him.

CHAPTER XVI—Charlie promptly interviews the major for his paper. Streetman appears and Charlie is ordered back to Brussels.

"I'm what?" Charlie inquired.

"Franzoesisch! You are no Amerikaner."

Charlie grasped only the last word.

"Yes, that's right—Americane, right from the corner of Forty-second street and Broadway; and, believe me, I wish I was right back there right now."

"What do you say?" the sergeant asked him.

"None of your d——n business. . . . You bonehead." . . . Mr. Brown was quite enjoying himself, abusing that walking arsenal with impunity. "Have a cigarette?" he asked, holding out his case.

Sergeant Schmidt was not above accepting one even from the enemy. And he thanked Charlie in as a bass drum.

"Gee, I'd like to give you one good wallop on the nose just for luck," the American remarked longingly.

Then Schmidt suddenly snatched off Mr. Brown's hat.

"Nix on the Herrmann stuff—what are you doing?" Charlie demanded. He began to feel as if he were taking part in a slapstick vaudeville skit.

The sergeant had his face buried inside the hat. He was looking for clues.

"Englisch!" he sputtered the next moment.

"Of course it's English!" Charlie retorted. "It cost me two-and-six," he added, regarding the rough handling of his straw with indignation.

Sergeant Schmidt leaned over, and, seizing Charlie's coat by the collar, he pulled it back from his neck while he examined the label.

"English also. Spion! Thou art an English spy!"

His trusty henchmen, Hans and Otto, together with their corporal, brought their guns up to their sides; and, hissing "Spion!" in the most sinister manner imaginable, they all three approached Charlie threateningly.

Mr. Brown suddenly changed his mind about the vaudeville. It seemed to him that possibly he had been unwittingly cast for a tragedy.

"Spion—spion!" he repeated. "Good gr— you don't mean spy?"

"Spy, spy—ja wohl," said Schmidt. "Komm hier!"

He took hold of Charlie's arm and faced him about so that he confronted the trio of formidable soldiers. And then the sergeant ordered them to load.

Charlie observed the operation with increasing alarm.

"Good God, you're not going to shoot me!" he cried. "I'm not English. I'm not a spy." And remembering all at once that the girl whom he had first met at the house of Sir George Wagstaff in London could speak German, he yelled at the top of his voice, "Madame de Lorde! Madame de Lorde!"

The two privates were aiming at him now. And he faced them indignantly. His anger was already beginning to get the better of his fear.

"Say—if you shoot me there are a hundred million people back there who're going to be sore as hell!" he snarled. "They'll come over here and blow you off the face of the earth."

At an order from the sergeant the corporal and one of the privates then grasped their victim and hustled him across the room.

"Say—what are you going to do with me?" Charlie asked. "Let me alone!" And again he called loudly for Ethel Willoughby.

To his immense relief, at that moment she appeared.

"What are you doing?" she asked the sergeant.

"It is not your affair," he retorted gruffly.

She showed her medal to him—the medal from the Wilhelmstrasse.

"Do you know that?" she inquired.

He did. And immediately he cried "Halt" to Charlie's captors. They released him at once.

"Gosh, I'm glad you're not deaf," Mr. Brown told Ethel with immense relief, as he crossed the room to where she stood.

"He is an English spy," the sergeant protested to the girl.

"No, no, no—you are mistaken," she said. "He is an American."

"They're going to shoot me!" Charlie told her. He did not yet feel safely out of the woods. "For heaven's sake, tell them I'm not a spy."

"I have just told them," she assured him.

"I know. Make sure! Tell 'em again!" he urged her. "Ask if there isn't someone who speaks English."

Questioned as to whether there were not some officer who understood English, the sergeant informed Ethel that Major von Brenig knew the hateful language.

"For the love of Mike, get him here!" Charlie besought her, when she explained to him.

While Sergeant Schmidt betook himself away in order to summon the major, Charlie Brown turned to Ethel with an air of great relief.

"They're Going to Shoot Me!"

"Well, I was looking for a war, and I certainly picked out the right spot, didn't I?" he asked.

"I suppose mistakes like this are bound to happen. But haven't you papers to prove your identity?" she inquired.

"Oh, yes—yes! French passports, and an English hat and English clothes! All I needed to really finish me was a Russian blouse," he said with a grin. "Seriously though," he went on, "I do want to thank you." He offered her his hand.

"It was nothing," she said, as she shook hands with him.

Before the major arrived Ethel left him, after promising that she would not go so far away that he might not call her in case he needed her assistance again.

The sight of the fatherly appearing major, whose bearded face soon showed in the doorway, went far to restore Charlie's equanimity.

"The spy—where is the spy?" Major von Brenig asked the sergeant, who followed close at his heels.

Charlie Brown did not wait for the "noncom" to answer. He stepped forward expectantly.

"Are you Major von Brenig—and do you speak English?" he inquired.

"I am, and I do," the officer said.

Mr. Brown smiled at him winningly.

"Fitzsimmons there has my passports," he announced, pointing to the lanky sergeant.

Major von Brenig took the papers from the sergeant and looked them over.

"They seem to be in good order," he said—"vised by the American consul in Paris."

"And here's a letter from the paper I work for," Charlie added, handing the major an envelope.

The German officer merely looked at the imprint in one corner. He did not even take the letter from the American.

"It's a good newspaper. I've often read it," he remarked. And he returned the passport to its owner. "Now what is the trouble?" he asked.

"These guys were just going to shoot me as an English spy," Charlie informed him, with an indignant glance at the soldiers.

The major laughed in his face.

"You English?" he cried. "No one but an American ever said 'guy'!" He appeared greatly amused. "I am glad my men did not make the mistake of killing you," he said pleasantly.

"You've nothing on me," Charlie told him.

CHAPTER XVI.

Interviewing the Major.

The sergeant saluted, clicked his spurs together, moved majestically to a position in front of the cigar case, and clicked his heels again. Judging by his movements, one might almost have supposed him to be some great mechanical doll. But Charlie Brown was quite certain that he, for one, had no desire to play with him.

"I feel much better now," he told the major.

"I can imagine," the other said.

"You speak very good English," the American remarked generously.

"Why not?" the officer asked. "I spent three years at Columbia."

Mr. Brown's newspaper instincts crowded to the front again.

"By Jove! You're a German! You're in the army—you speak English! . . . It's too good a chance to miss! Say, can I interview you?"

Major von Brenig regarded him curiously for a moment. He seemed to consider that the American would be a satisfactory person to talk to, for he said presently:

"Yes—for I should like America to understand, to realize what Germany is fighting for."

"Fine!" Charlie exulted. "Can Germany win?" he demanded, looking up at Major von Brenig in his most professional manner.

"It is inevitable—there is no chance to fail," the officer replied.

"And what is Germany going to gain from the war—if she wins?"

"When she wins, you mean," the major corrected him stiffly.

"Well, when she wins," Charlie conceded.

"She will be the greatest power in the world!"

"Except the United States!" Charlie interposed.

"Do not let us discuss your country, sir! You are my guest."

Charlie rose and bowed to the German.

"I get you!" he said. "Oh, just a minute!" he added, since the major appeared to consider the interview at an end. "And what about England?" he asked, dropping into the chair once more.

That question was one that the German officer was only too ready to take up.

"What army has England?" And straightway he gave the answer: "None! In only one thing is England our superior—in lies and intrigues! There she has always been our master; but she will not fight. That is for France and Russia to do. But if the war lasts they will grow weary of being the catspaw. . . . England is a fine example of your happy American phrase, 'Let George do it!'"

"And the French?" Charlie persisted.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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The Southeast Quarter (SE¼) of Section Eight (8), in Township Thirty-three (33) North, Range Three (3) East of the Third Principal Meridian, in the County of La Salle and State of Illinois.

Terms of Sale—10% of the purchase price to be paid at date of sale, and the balance to be paid upon confirmation of said sale by the Probate Court of La Salle County, Illinois.

This farm is situated about three miles northwest of Ottawa, and consists of about eighty acres of tillable land and about eighty acres of pasture and woodland, a great deal of which can be cleared up and made available for tillage purposes.

There are ample and adequate farm buildings and the land is well tiled. This is a very choice farm and offers a splendid opportunity to acquire a fine place.

The land is rented until the first of March, 1918, and the purchaser has the right to fall plow the stubble land. Possession to be given upon confirmation of the sale by the court, subject to the present tenant's rights.

Abstract of title can be examined at the office of the undersigned, in Ottawa, Illinois.

EDWARD C. SWIFT,
Executor of the Last Will and Testament of George Jacob Zimmermann, deceased.

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WANTED—A willing workman. Apply to 1129 Columbus street.

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Notice to Contractors.

Sealed proposals for construction, heating and plumbing, and gas fitting for addition to Washington school, Ottawa, Illinois, will be received by the Board of Education of District No. 141-33-3, until twelve o'clock noon on Saturday, August 18, 1917, at its rooms in the Moloney Bldg., Ottawa, Ill.

Proposals must be accompanied by a certified check for one hundred dollars ($100) as an evidence of good faith. Contractors, when awards shall be made, shall be required to furnish bonds with good and sufficient surety.

Plans and specifications for the above work, may be seen at the office of the architect, Jason F. Richardson, Jr., 508 Central Life Building, Ottawa, Illinois.

The right is reserved to reject any and all bids.

Dated at Ottawa, Ill., August 7, 1917.

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District 141-33-3.
By Henry Mayo, Pres.
Elmer E. Roberts, Sec'y.

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